

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled):

Claim 10 (currently amended): An animal food composition comprising:
an animal food piece comprising:

from 55% to 85% by weight of at least one of a meat and a fish,
from 10% to 25% by weight of a cereal, and
from 6% to 15% by weight of water; and

a coating on the pet food piece and having a roasted appearance after cooking, wherein the coating comprises sodium alginate in an amount from about 1% to about 2%, from 5% to 10% by weight of at least one of a source of pigments or colorants selected from the group consisting of a powdered blood, a frozen blood and combinations thereof; and a source of proteins selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a gluten, a blood, and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the coating contains from about 30% to about 50% by weight of water.

Claims 12-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the source of proteins represents from about 5% to about 20% of the weight of the coating.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the coating further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a thickener in addition to the sodium alginate, a binder, an additive, flour, water and combinations thereof.

Claims 17-21 (canceled):

Claim 22 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the coating comprises a mixture of: a caramelized sugar, a starch, a guar, a carboxymethyl-cellulose, a flour, water, a plasma, a powdered blood, sodium alginate, a salt, a sugar, an ascorbic acid, a gluten and an iron oxide.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the coating after cooking creates a non-homogenous, irregular, random roasted appearance to the food composition.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 10 wherein the composition is cooked by a system selected from the group consisting of a hot air system, a steam system, a combined hot air and steam system, a microwave system.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A process for preparing an animal food composition having a roasted appearance after cooking, comprising the steps of:

- coating said food composition;
- cooking said food composition;
- cooling said food composition; and
- packaging said food composition.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 25 wherein said food composition comprises an emulsion and a non-homogenous coating.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 26 wherein said coating comprises a pigment or colorant and a source of proteins.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 27 wherein said pigment represents from about 5% to about 20% of the weight of said coating.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 27 wherein said source of proteins represent from about 5% to about 20% of the weight of said coating.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 26 wherein said emulsion comprises a mixture of a meat, a meat by-product, a fish, a fish by-product, a poultry, poultry by products, a pork, pork by-products, a plant texturing protein, an animal texturing protein, vitamins, salt, flavoring, a colorant, a cereal, water and a combination thereof.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 25 wherein said step of cooking further comprises the step of cooking said food composition in at least one of a hot air system, a steam system, a combined hot air and steam system, a microwave system.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 26 wherein said step of cooking further comprises the step of cooking said food composition in an extruder.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 32 wherein said step of cooking said food composition in an extruder, wherein said extruder includes a first inlet having a first diameter and a second inlet having a second diameter, said first diameter is greater than said second diameter, and said second inlet is concentrically located inside said first inlet.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 33 wherein said coating flows inside said first inlet and said emulsion flows inside said second inlet.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 27 wherein said step of cooking further comprises the step of cooking said food composition until the proteins of said coating coagulate.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 27 further comprising the step of varying the cooking time, temperature, and ratio of protein and colorants to produce an appearance of non-homogeneous, roasted surface.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A process according to Claim 26 wherein said coating comprises a mixture of a caramelized sugar, a starch, a guar, a carboxymethyl-cellulose, a flour, water, a plasma, a powdered blood, sodium alginate, a salt, a sugar, an ascorbic acid, a gluten, an iron oxide and a combination thereof.

Claim 38 (currently amended): An animal food composition comprising:
an animal food piece comprising:

- from 58% to 68% by weight of at least one of a meat and a fish,
- from 10% to 25% by weight a cereal,
- from 2% to 5% of a plant protein, and
- from 5% to 14% by weight of water; and

a coating on the pet food piece and having a roasted appearance after cooking, wherein the coating comprises sodium alginate in an amount from about 1% to about 2%, at least one of a source of pigments or colorants selected from the group consisting of a powdered blood, a frozen blood and combinations thereof; and a source of proteins selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a gluten, a blood, and combinations thereof.

Claim 39 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the coating contains from about 30% to about 50% by weight of water.

Claim 40 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the source of pigments or colorants represents from about 5% to about 20% of the weight of the coating.

Claim 41 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the source of proteins represents from about 5% to about 20% of the weight of the coating.

Claim 42 (currently amended): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the coating further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a thickener in addition to the sodium alginate, a binder, an additive, flour, water and combinations thereof.

Claim 43 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the coating comprises a mixture of: a caramelized sugar, a starch, a guar, a carboxymethyl-cellulose, a flour, water, a plasma, a powdered blood, sodium alginate, a salt, a sugar, an ascorbic acid, a gluten and an iron oxide.

Claim 44 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the coating after cooking creates a non-homogenous, irregular, random roasted appearance to the food composition.

Claim 45 (previously presented): An animal food composition according to Claim 38 wherein the composition is cooked by a system selected from the group consisting of a hot air system, a steam system, a combined hot air and steam system, a microwave system.

Claim 46 (currently amended): An animal food composition comprising:

a meat emulsion comprising a mixture of a meat, a cereal, a textured protein, water, vitamins, salt, a flavoring and a colorant; and

a coating on the meat emulsion and having a roasted appearance after cooking, wherein the coating comprises sodium alginate in an amount from about 1% to about 2%, at least one of a source of pigments or colorants selected from the group consisting of a powdered blood, a frozen blood and combinations thereof; and a source of proteins selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a gluten, a blood, and combinations thereof.